

a1 supported by a backing ring 38 to sealingly secure the inlet member 24 to a fuel supply member (not shown), such as a fuel rail.

Please replace the paragraph on page 5, starting on line 8 with the following:

a2 --The spacer 48 engages the body shell 50, which engages the body 52. An armature guide eyelet 56 is located on an inlet portion 60 of the body 52. An axially extending body passage 58 connects the inlet portion 60 of the body 52 with an outlet portion 62 of the body 52. The armature passage 54 of the armature 46 is in fluid communication with the body passage 58 of the body 52. A seat 64, which is preferably a metallic material, is mounted at the outlet portion 62 of the body 52.

Please replace the paragraph on page 8, starting on line 4 with the following:

a3 --The needle sealing portion 612 is formed by a tool 100, such as, for example, a grinding tool so as to provide a selected finish. The selected finish can be less than 0.5 micrometers, preferably between 0.2 micrometers and 0.4 micrometers. The contour of the needle sealing portion 612 can be described by the shape of each second transverse cross-sectional area and the rate that the second transverse cross-sectional area decreases throughout the needle sealing portion 612. The second transverse cross-sectional area can have a first area in the imaginary plane that is proximate to the upstream face 602, and decrease at a first rate to a second area in the imaginary plane that is distal from the upstream face 602. As discussed above, this rate may be constant or variable. In the case where the shape of each second transverse cross-sectional area is a circle having a diameter that decreases at a constant rate, as is illustrated in Figure 2, the shape of the needle sealing portion 612 is that of a truncated right cone with an included angle 624. Of course, different shapes for the needle sealing portion 612 can be obtained by varying the shape of the second transverse cross-sectional areas or by varying the rate at which the second transverse cross-sectional areas change.